

# Millard County

## Local Planning Summary

*Prepared for the:*  
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests  
Forest Plan Revision  
Social and Economic Assessment**



**Utah Governor's Office  
of Planning and Budget**  
116 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
(801) 538-1027  
[www.planning.utah.gov](http://www.planning.utah.gov)

**December  
2003**



## ***MILLARD COUNTY GENERAL PLAN, 1998***

<b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b>	Millard County's population exceeds 12,000 residents and Delta is the largest city with roughly 3,200 residents. Between 1970 and 2000 Millard County grew by 76%. Millard County's population is projected to grow at an average annual rate of approximately 0.5% through 2030. County residents believe that maintaining multiple-use management practices on Federal and State land is a top priority.
<b>Historical Abstract</b>	Millard County residents enjoy a lifestyle unique in today's society. The area's rural character and small-town atmosphere provide a quality of life vastly different than that found in larger urban areas. As a share of total employment through 2002, services and non-farm proprietors increased significantly while agriculture declined. These trends are projected to continue.
<b>Economic Values</b>	<p>Millard County enjoys a diverse economic base and employment profile. The County has developed a number of strategies to ensure continued economic growth and development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Target recruiting efforts on businesses that complement the County's economic objective to diversify the local economy (Econ Dev, p. 4).</li><li>• Preserve and strengthen the County's agricultural sector (Econ Dev, p. 6).</li><li>• Protect the County's agricultural land base (Econ Dev, p. 6).</li><li>• Utilize the Small Business Development Centers at Snow College and Southern Utah University (Econ Dev, p. 8).</li><li>• Increase the accessibility of capital to local business interests (Econ Dev, p. 9).</li></ul>

<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote smart growth, Millard County will encourage residential development to occur within developed areas in order to stem sprawl.</li> <li>• It is the County's opinion that traditional Federal and State land uses, such as grazing, mining and mineral development are a higher priority than recreation, (Land Use, p. 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Social &amp; Cultural Values</b>	<p>To meet its housing goals, Millard County will do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the development of housing targeted for specific sectors of the population (i.e. the elderly or low-income residents).</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a County-level housing plan as required by Utah Code Annotated 17-27-307 (Housing-2).</li> <li>• County residents value low crime rates, accessible government, quality human and community services, and a strong economic base. Maintaining this quality of life is a priority of Millard County residents (p. 5).</li> </ul>
<b>Forest-Specific Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Of the federal and state owned land in the County, the United States Forest Service manages roughly 8% of this land (Land Use, p.1).</li> </ul>
<b>Public Lands Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 87% of the land within Millard County is managed by federal or state agencies (p. 6).</li> <li>• Millard County does not define "multiple use" as allowing "all uses" in "all areas." The County encourages "responsible use" (Land Use p. 9).</li> <li>• The County does not support land use designations, such as wilderness, that permanently designates an area for a particular use and restricts other viable and compatible options (Land Use p. 9).</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Demographic Issues</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millard County opposes the "wilderness" management concept and will support wilderness designations only as outlined in the County's adopted 1995 Wilderness Study/Plan, (Land Use, p. 9).</li> </ul>

***MILLARD COUNTY GENERAL PLAN (Water-Related Sections), 1999***  
**&**  
***MILLARD COUNTY REGIONAL WATER MASTER PLAN, 1999***

<b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b>	Water is considered the “lifeblood” of Millard County. Current and future residential, industrial, recreational, and agricultural development is determined by water quality, availability and allocation. In 1992, there were 88,841 total acres of irrigated land in Millard County. In addition, there were 82,245 of harvested cropland acres.
<b>Historical Abstract</b>	Millard County is comprised primarily of isolated waters systems, with each being operated and maintained independently of the other. Volunteer or part-time operators maintain many smaller systems, with no benefits provided by the respective water company (Rec., p. 2-2).
<b>Economic Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that an impact fee be charged to all new connections, both residential and commercial, to the culinary water system. Based on projected culinary water system debt service, the calculations result in an impact fee of \$710. Impact fees are charged in addition and separate from hook up fees (Fillmore, p.19).</li> <li>• The total annual debt service payment averages \$110,050.00 per year. Divided by 1,141 ERU’s in the system and again by 12 months, customers must pay on average \$8.04 per month (Fillmore, p.19).</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Millard County’s population is projected to grow at an average annual rate of approximately 0.5% through 2030. The recommended water rate structure will ensure that the water system remains self-sustaining (F, p.2 &amp; 22).</li> <li>• A majority of Fillmore has secondary irrigation available, but many use culinary water for lawn irrigation (Fillmore, p.2).</li> </ul>

**Regional  
Demographic  
Issues**

- Currently, Millard County is working with the State of Utah to develop a resource management plan for the Sevier River. This planning process will explore the various uses along the river corridor and the effects of adjacent land use (Land Use, p. 15).
- Many systems are in need of system improvements to provide adequate services to existing and future users (according to Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Drinking Water Standards) (p. 2-2).

***SIX COUNTY ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS***  
***Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000***

<p><b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b></p>	<p>The Six County AOG attempts to coordinate economic development efforts with the Six County Economic Development District, and this Plan is their comprehensive strategy. Population is expected to grow in each County. The government services sector is the largest employer in the Region. Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry, and is expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities. One of the primary goals is to maintain coordination between agencies, and another is to assist Native Americans with their economic development efforts.</p>
<p><b>Historical Abstract</b></p>	<p>The Six County Economic Development District (SCEDD) was formed through inter-local agreements by Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties. The Plan was guided by the “CEDS 2000 Steering Committee”. This advisory group comprises elected officials, special interest representation, education, business, labor, industry, agriculture, minority groups, community organizations, unemployment and underemployment.</p>
<p><b>Economic Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government services sector is the largest employer in the Six County Region, (p.8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employment in this sector includes public lands management, education, public health and safety, parks and recreation, law enforcement.</li> <li>○ This sector is vital to the area’s economy as higher level salaries are provided.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry within the region. Unlike other major industries within the area, tourism related businesses have experienced significant growth and are expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities, (p.8).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Tribal-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal #2: “conduct and support a reliable and integrated planning in cooperation with all agencies”, (p.15). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One of the objectives is to “maintain communications with county, community, tribal and other agency planning officials”, and</li> <li>○ Provide technical assistance to counties, communities, and tribal bands in general planning, including development planning, (p.16).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Goal #6: “assist minority and ethnic populations in achieving their economic development goals and objectives”, (p.20). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assist Native Americans within the region with their community and economic development efforts, (p.20).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Forest-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFS was a member of the Steering Committee, (p.2).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Lands Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal #4: “encourage and identify opportunities to develop more efficient use of natural resources”, (p.19). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Coordinate natural resource development with public land managers to foster multiple-use of public lands”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Demographic Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan predicts that population in all six counties will grow through 2050, (p.6).</li> <li>• Unemployment has been consistently greater in the region when compared with the State and Nation, (p.7).</li> <li>• Currently, public lands dominate with BLM and USFS controlling 72 percent of the total acreage. Private ownership equals only 15 percent. State and other interests control 13 percent, (p.11).</li> <li>• Presently the elected officials directing the economic development efforts of the Region are most interested in the development of industry that will utilize the area’s natural resources, enhance the standard of living, and create family sustaining jobs, (p.12).</li> </ul>